

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT		25X1
SUBJECT	1. Standard of Living 2. Volume and Value of Consumer Goods and Services	DATE DISTR.	23 September 1955	
		NO. OF PAGES	7	
DATE		REQUIREMENT		25X1
PLACE		REFERENCES		
DATE		This is UNEVALUATED Information		25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

STATE	#X	ARMY	#X	NAVY	#X	AIR	#X	FBI		AEC		ORR EV	X
(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)													

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REPORT

DEFECTOR RECEPTION CENTER

COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 28 July 1955

SUBJECT 1. Standard of Living
2. Volume and Value of Consumer Goods and Services

NO. OF PAGES 6

DATE OF

REFERENCES:

PLACE A

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Prices of Food and Consumers Goods in 1954

8. [redacted] the prices of the following foodstuffs and goods sold in state owned shops in Lodz and Warsaw:

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Foodstuffs

Black bread, 1 kg	c.	3.00 to 3.50 zlotys
Best white bread, 1 kg	c.	5.00 zlotys
Rolls, each	c.	0.50 zlotys
Milk, in bottles, 1 liter	c.	2.00 zlotys
Milk, in bulk, 1 liter	c.	1.50 to 1.75 zlotys
Eggs, each	c.	1.20 to 1.30 zlotys
Butter, best quality, 1 kg	c.	60.00 zlotys
Butter, extra, 1 kg	c.	50.00 zlotys
Butter, ordinary, 1 kg	c.	40.00 zlotys
Cheese, 1 kg	c.	30.00 to 45.00 zlotys
Sugar, 1 kg	c.	13.00 to 15.00 zlotys
Sausages, 1 kg	c.	32.00 to 60.00 zlotys
Ham, 1 kg	c.	55.00 zlotys

Luxury Foods

Coffee, 1 kg	c.	390.00 to 400.00 zlotys
Tea, Chinese, 1 kg	c.	142.00 zlotys
Tea, Indian, 1 kg	c.	280.00 zlotys
Tea, Soviet, 1 kg	c.	280.00 zlotys
Vodka, 40%, 1 liter	c.	61.00 zlotys
Vodka, 45%, 1 liter	c.	70.00 zlotys
Vodka, 45% (Wyborowa) 1 liter	c.	80.00 zlotys
Vodka, export, 3/4 liter	c.	70.00 zlotys
Liqueur, 1/2 liter	c.	70.00 to 75.00 zlotys
Champagne, Hungarian, 3/4 liter	c.	70.00 zlotys
Fruit Wine, homemade, 3/4 liter		13.00 to 22.00 zlotys
Wine, Soviet, 0.85 liter		25.00 to 43.00 zlotys
Wine, Hungarian Tokaj, 1/2 liter		36.00 to 42.00 zlotys
Wine, Bulgarian, 3/4 liter		32.00 zlotys

Clothing

Wool, 100%, medium quality, 1 meter	c.	400.00 to 600.00 zlotys
Wool, high quality, Polish export, 1 m.		1,000.00 zlotys
Stockings, stylon, 1 pr.		60.00 to 75.00 zlotys
Stockings, nylon, American or English		200.00 zlotys
Socks, 50% stylon, 1 pr.		20.00 zlotys
Shirts, ordinary cotton, ea.		40.00 to 80.00 zlotys
Shirts, poplin		150.00 zlotys
Men's wool suit, ready made		700.00 - 1,200.00 zlotys
Men's leather jacket		5,000.00 zlotys
Men's leather shoes		280.00 - 1,500.00 zlotys
Leather shoes with rubber soles		130.00 zlotys
Leather shoes, better quality rubber soles		300.00 zlotys
Men's felt hat, ea.		25.00 - 70.00 zlotys

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Handbag, good quality, leather		550.00 zlotys
Handbag, artificial leather	120.00 -	150.00 zlotys

Manufactured Products

Motor bikes, second hand		1,500.00 zlotys
Motorcycle, SHL 125. cm)	With authorization	3,300.00 zlotys
Motorcycle, Jawa 250 cm)	certificate	9,000.00 zlotys
Motorcycle, Jawa 250 cm, privately, without certificate		20,000.00 zlotys
Wristwatch	1,500.00 -	2,500.00 zlotys
Pen knife	30.00 -	60.00 zlotys
Sauce pan, fire proof, glass		14.00 zlotys
Electric hot plate, one burner		35.00 zlotys
Small car, German DKW, new	13,000.00 -	18,000.00 zlotys
Opel, DKW, Mercedes or Czech		
Tatra, Skoda, old, second hand	20,000.00 -	100,000.00 zlotys
American Dodge, English Humber, old, second hand	70,000.00 -	100,000.00 zlotys
Gasoline, 1 liter		3.80 zlotys

9. New automobiles of Polish production, like the Warszawa, are available for state establishments only. New foreign cars by "Motozbyt" were available for doctors, engineers, and shock workers only. All second hand cars could be bought privately from private owners or from members of foreign embassies and consulates. Nylon stockings of American or English production were sold mainly privately by those who received them in parcels from the West. Gasoline was not rationed, but there were some restrictions on oil which one could buy at the gasoline stations in some proportion to the amount of gasoline.

Miscellaneous

10. The following prices were paid in state owned coffee houses and restaurants in Lodz and Warsaw in 1954:

Small black coffee, 1 cup	c. 3.35 -	4.00 zlotys
Tea, 1 glass	1.50 -	3.00 zlotys
Pastry, 1 piece	2.00 -	5.00 zlotys
Liqueurs, 1 glass		5.00 zlotys
Bottle of wine		40.00 zlotys
Breakfast in a milk bar consisting of 1 coffee or milk, two rolls with butter and cheese	4.00 -	5.00 zlotys
Three boiled eggs in glass		4.50 zlotys
One soup	1.10 -	2.50 zlotys
Lunch or supper at a restaurant or bar consisting of soup, meat dish, and vegetables	10.00 -	15.00 zlotys
Beer, one glass	1.10 -	1.50 zlotys
Vodka, 1/4 liter	21.00 -	45.00 zlotys

11. The prices in restaurants and coffee houses depended on the category of the place. For an average meal with drinks and coffee for two persons, one would spend between 50 and 100 zlotys in an evening at an average restaurant. Coffee houses and restaurants added 15% to the bills during concert hours.

Hotels and Lodging Places

12. There was a big difference in prices paid for hotel rooms, depending on the category of the hotel and the town. In Warsaw, Lodz and the larger cities, the hotels run by "Orbis" charged

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about 70 zlotys for a single room and 90-150 zlotys for a double room for a 24-hour period. The municipal hotels of lower categories charged 45 to 75 zlotys for a single room and 30 to 50 zlotys for a double room.

Domestic Servants

13. In Lodz and in all the larger cities, it was difficult to hire a maid or nurse for children. Salaries differed; average expenses for a maid servant were calculated as follows:

Monthly wage	350.00 to 400.00 zlotys
Insurance	80.00 zlotys
Food and lodging provided	600.00 zlotys
	<hr/>
	1,030.00 - 1,080.00 zlotys

14. Other services, such as barber and beauty shop cooperatives, public baths, and laundries, were available in sufficient numbers in the towns. One had to wait very long, about one month, for dry cleaning, however. Laundry was mostly done in private houses by housewives or hired washwomen.
15. There were also half-private cooperatives run by groups of private lawyers (Zespól Adwokacki) where one could get legal advice. It was customary to pay an official fee of about 100 zlotys for consultation and an additional private fee to the lawyer of the cooperative which handled the case. [redacted] paid 600 zlotys to an attorney for defending [redacted] a civil case.

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Availability of Consumer Goods

16. [redacted] an increase in the availability of high quality clothing and shoes in the last six months of 1954, but prices were increased. Special new shops called "Galux" (Galanteria Luksusowa) were opened selling such goods to the population. There was a noticeable increase in the availability of food, especially in Warsaw, in the second half of 1954. Household goods were also more plentiful. [redacted] this increased availability of goods in the shops was due to fulfillment of the Six-Year-Plan and was not so much the result of an official switch to the production of consumer goods. There was a shortage of wire, nails, screws, sheet iron, and even tinware for private use. The distribution of consumer goods was not well organized; it was always difficult to find the proper size, color, or quality of clothing and household goods.

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Welfare Services

17. Welfare services for workers and employees and their families were organized by the state under the supervision of the Communist Party. Every large factory and establishment provided nurseries, kindergartens, canteens and sport clubs for its employees, organized vacations for children, and excursions for employees. The factories paid for these services from so-called welfare funds. For example, the parents paid for only a small percentage of the costs for nurseries and kindergartens; this was deducted from their salaries or wages each month.

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